THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As regards NP-NSPE, 2004 (revised Mid-Day Meal Scheme), Rs. 6754.68 lakhs has been released to Government of Karnataka towards first instalment of Central assistance to meet cooking cost.

Establishment of 7 new/upgraded DIETs for Karnataka was approved in 2004-05 under the revised teacher education scheme and first instalment of Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 371.75 lakh has been released for civil works. A proposal for upgradation of CTE, Gulbarga to IASE was received from the State Government. Since non-recurring component of the proposal was exceeding the prescribed financial ceiling limit, the State Government has been requested to revise its proposal.

Report on women empowerment

489. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently released report of the World Economic Forum entitled "Women Empowerment, measuring the Global Gender Gap", placing India at the 53rd position out of the 58 countries surveyed on social, economic and political gender parity;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action Government propose to initiate or have already initiated to improve upon the role of women and for their empowerment in different fields of activities like education, health, sports and other areas as set out in the above mentioned report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government is already siezed of the matter relating to gender disparity brought out by the World Economic Forum. The parameters included in the Report undergo continuous review through our plan documents and steps are taken from time to time improve the position. The Government has initiated gender mainstreaming measures at the Union and State levels to ensure that gender concerns are brought centre stage in all

aspects of public expenditure and policy. The Tenth Plan has initiated action in tying up the concept of Women's Component Plan and gender budgeting exercise to develop gender perspective in planning. The efforts and progress India has achieved with respect to the critical areas on concerns identified by the Beijing Conference is given in the **Platform for Action 10 years after India Country Report,** available in departmental website http://www.wcd.nic.in.

Financial assistance for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

490. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to enhance financial assistance to the State Governments for Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is expected to be provided; and

(c) the financial assistance to be provided to the most populous State of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Enhancement in existing financial assistance to State Governments under Mid-Day Meal Scheme is contingent upon availability of adequate resources. Planning Commission has been approached for a higher outlay for 2006-07.

Absence of school teachers

491. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint survey by Harvard University and World Bank had shown that 25 per cent primary Government school teachers in the country remain absent everyday; and

(b) if so, whether the survey had further shown that 49.5 per cent of them stay away from their classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A